

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/608,677
Reply to Advisory Action dated March 28, 2006 and Office Action dated January 13, 2006

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that this application be accorded the benefits of Continued Examination. Applicant further requests that the amendments set forth above be entered at this time. Finally, it is requested that a 1-month extension of time be granted in which to respond to the outstanding Action mailed January 13, 2006, said period of response being extended from April 13, 2006 to May 13, 2006.

In the Office Action mailed on January 13, 2006, claims 2-4 and 6-8 were rejected. Applicant has amended claim 8. New claim 10 has been added. Claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been entered, and the claims as presented are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Action, claims 4 and 8 were rejected under §103(a) as being obvious over Sundback in view of Marinsky. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 8 recites "the fastener tapes are prevented from entering the slider". In sharp contrast, Sundback fails to disclose or suggest that the fastener tapes are prevented from entering the slider. Rather, Sundback discloses that the tapes 7 or 8 project through a slot 20 in the slider. See, e.g., page 1, right column, ll. 43-47; Figs. 1, 3, and 5. Moreover, Sundback teaches away from the fastener tapes being prevented from entering the slider (e.g., as recited in claim 8). Specifically, Sundback states:

"preferably I employ a slider generally designated 17 . . . The slider embodies at its entrance two channels 18, 19 which totally surround the opposite rows of fastener elements on four sides except for a slot 20 through which the tapes 7 or 8 project."

See, e.g., page 1, right column, ll. 40-55; Figs. 1, 3, and 5.

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Also in sharp contrast, Marinsky fails to disclose or suggest "the fastener tapes are prevented from entering the slider". Rather, Marinsky discloses that the tape section 10 includes a body section 15 (shaped by the slider) and a sealing portion 17 (also shaped by the slider) with an end enlargement 18. See, e.g., page 1, right column, ll. 17-29. Further, Marinsky discloses that the tape end enlargements (18 and 18a) stop inside the body sections (15 and 15a) in the slider. See, e.g., Figs. 3-5. Therefore, the tapes in Marinsky are not prevented from entering into the slider.

Therefore, even if it is proper to combine the cited references (a point which Applicant does not concede), the combination fails to disclose or suggest "the fastener tapes are prevented from entering the slider" recited in claim 8. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Claim 4 is a dependent claim and so is also believed to be allowable over the art of record. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejection.

Claims 2-3 and 6-7 were also rejected under §103(a) as being obvious. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As discussed above, independent claim 8 is patentable. Claims 2-3 and 6-7 are dependent claims and so are also believed to be allowable over the art of record. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejection.

New Claim 10

New claim 10 is added and recites, "said top plate outer surface and said bottom plate outer surface contacting each fastener tape". Such recitation clearly distinguishes from art such as WO 02/21959. Claim 8 also recites structure which is not disclosed and/or taught by

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WO 02/21959. By way of example, "said top plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending downward and forming a left side part while said second end extends to an open space; said bottom plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending upward and forming a right side part while said second end extends to an open space. . ."
Accordingly, Applicant proffers that claim 10 is also allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the currently pending claims. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4755 to discuss the same.

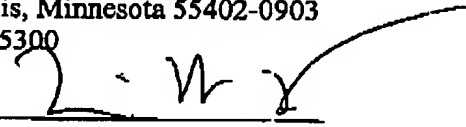


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Respectfully submitted,

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